

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 USIA-06
SY-05 USSS-00 /044 W
-----063487 201938Z /43
R 201107Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7031

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2132

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD), AF
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DAOUD'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON: LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: STATE 68558

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH RECEIVED ME THE EVENING OF MARCH
19 AND I DELIVERED TO HIM THE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO
PRESIDENT DAOUD CONTAINED REFTEL.

2. AFTER READING THE LETTER, ABDULLAH, WHILE SAYING THAT IT IS
CLEARLY A SINCERE AND FRIENDLY LETTER, EXPRESSED GREAT DIS-
APPOINTMENT AT THE POSTPONEMENT OF PRESIDENT DAOUD'S VISIT. HE
NOTED THAT NO TIME FRAME WAS GIVEN IN THE LETTER FOR THE VISIT
AND ASKED FOR MY OPINION.

3. I TOLD ABDULLAH THAT BEFORE DELIVERING THE LETTER, I HAD
ASKED WASHINGTON WHETHER I COULD SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE TIMING
AND HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT I COULD NOT GIVE ANY
SPECIFIC INDICATION AT THIS TIME BUT THAT AS THE VISIT HAD
BEEN AGREED UPON IN PRINCIPLE IT WOULD HAVE HIGH PRIORITY. I
ADDED THAT MY OWN PERSONAL OBSERVATION WHILE IN WASHINGTON TM
FIRST WEEK IN MARCH WAS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS TREMENDOUSLY
BUSY WITH BOTH URGENT DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS AND
THAT I THEREFORE HAD NOT BEEN SURPRISED AT THE POSTPONEMENT
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OF PRESIDENT DAOUD'S VISIT.

4. ABDULLAH THEN ASKED WHETHER ANY OTHER HEADS OF STATE WOULD
BE VISITING WASHINGTON BEFORE NOVEMBER. I SAID THE ONLY OTHER
ONE FROM SOUTH ASIA OF WHOM I WAS AWARE IS PRIME MINISTER
DESAI, WHO WOULD VISIT WASHINGTON IN CONNECTION WITH HIS
ATTENDANCE AT THE MAY SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UN GENERAL

ASSEMBLY. ABDULLAH SAID THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PRESIDENT
DAOUD WOULD ALSO ATTEND THAT SESSION AND THAT, IF HE WERE TO
DO SO, HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AT THAT
TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL02132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780123-0059
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780348/aaaabokb.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0b4ff2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 68558
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3271057
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT DAOUD'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER
TAGS: OVIP, AF, (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b4ff2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014